

Belper Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Birm.)

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FRANCIS COSTELLO, A.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Chairman of the Council: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM
H. WILSON, J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee: COUNCILLOR
JOHN W. BLACKHAM.

Clerk of the Council: CHARLES PRICE, O.B.E.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	4,294
Estimated Population	15,070
Rateable Value	£81,400
General Rate for 1947	18/8d.
Product of a Penny Rate	£320
Total Debt for all Purposes	£218,045
Total Debt for Housing only	£195,462
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,095
New Houses Erected and Occupied during 1947 (52 of the above being Council Houses).	72
Number of Live Births Registered	336
(Boys 179; Girls 157)	
Number of Illegitimate Births Registered	11
(Boys 5; Girls 6)	
Still Births: Males 4, Females 1	5
Deaths of Infants under one year: Boys 5 Girls 4	9
Total Number of Deaths: Males 68, Females 74	142
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	9.42
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	26.79

Riversdale,
Belper,
July, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Belper Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my 27th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District. The Report is for the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

The year from a health point of view is the best I have known during my 27 years as your Medical Officer. The Death Rate was remarkably low—the Birth Rate exceptionally high, being more than 50 per cent higher than in pre-war years. The number of cases of scarlet fever is the lowest for 20 years and there were no cases of Diphtheria.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (8) was slightly higher than the previous year, but is not high—there were only two deaths from this disease. Deaths from Cancer and Heart Diseases showed a splendid reduction.

Sessions at the Clinic, Field Lane, for the immunisation against Diphtheria were held throughout the year and were reasonably well attended. The benefits of the immunisation scheme have been appreciated for some years, this disease being practically abolished.

Comparisons regarding the incidence of Infectious Diseases over the past 7 years are shown on the following pages.

The Council's water services were well maintained during the year and samples taken were satisfactory. The Council during the year connected 112 dwellings and a number of business premises to the Town's supply, such properties previously being supplied from the Strutt's Carr Reservoir samples of which proved to be Plumbo-solvent.

Extensions to water mains to cover new development were made at Bridgehill, Windmill Lane, Shaw Lane, Wheeldon Avenue, Alton Road, Bargate Road, and Laund Nook. It is to be regretted that the scheme for an increased supply of water to the Sunnyhill and Makeney Areas has not yet commenced, and it is hoped that a scheme will be put into effect at the earliest possible date.

A small sewage disposal plant and sewers to deal with the Broadholme Area was completed during the year. This scheme covers 28 houses, 3 Farms and 1 Hotel and is capable of dealing with any development in that district. The works consist of Screens, Tanks, Filters and Storm Overflows, and such scheme will I am sure prove satisfactory and be much appreciated by the Broadholme residents as compared with previous unsatisfactory methods.

It is regretted that it has not yet been possible to commence the sewerage scheme for the Chevin, Blackbrook and Farnah Green Areas and it is hoped progress on this scheme will be more rapid than hitherto. A scheme was considered by the Council for extending sewers to the Shire Oaks district where there are seven houses unsewered. The Council at that time could not accept such scheme, but with the sewer now extended considerably in that direction the time may be opportune for the scheme to be re-considered.

At the main sewage works one 75 feet diameter filter was taken down and replaced with new media.

I have inspected all Schools in the district and am satisfied with the cleanliness of same.

Together with your Sanitary Inspector who selects tenants for your Council Houses, I have considered the claims of a great many applicants. Much good work has been done in this direction both by abating overcrowding and taking special cases out of poor houses. There is still much overcrowding but only the erection of more houses can rectify matters.

Numerous Farms, Dairies, Food Premises and Dwellings have been visited by me in the company of your Sanitary Inspector and a good standard of cleanliness has generally been found.

There are no special items to which I would draw your attention, and in conclusion I would thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk (Mr. Charles Price) and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Francis Costello) for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the rise and fall of the various notifiable diseases during the past seven years.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	13	7	6	8	5	8
Non-Pulmonary „	1	6	2	1	3	1	1
Scarlet Fever	53	80	32	33	25	12	11
Diphtheria	5	3	2	3	1	2	-
Pneumonia	11	2	1	5	4	1	.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	264	197	42	5	58	17	24
Whooping Cough ...	40	4	8	5	26	7	-
Erysipelas	6	6	4	3	2	2	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals. ,	393	311	99	61	128	47	45
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year 142 persons died—68 males and 74 females, a decrease of 8 compared with the previous year, and 20 less than in 1945. The death rate was 9.42 compared with 10.24 in 1946 and 11.57 in 1945.

The following tables give the causes of death registered during 1947.

	M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1
Whooping Cough.....	—	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Cancer	8	8
Diabetes	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	9	7
Heart Diseases	18	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	5
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	2
Nephritis	5	2
Premature Birth	1	1
Congenital Debility	2	—
Suicide	1	2
Road Traffic Accident	—	1
Other Violent Causes	3	—
All Other Causes	8	11
	—	—
Totals	68	74
	—	—

Births registered during the year totalled 336, boys 179, girls 157. This total is an increase of 40 over the previous year and 126 more than in 1945. The birth rate was 22.3 as against 20.2 in 1946 and 15 in 1945. There were 5 still births—an increase of one and 11 illegitimate births, which is a decrease of five.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AT VARYING AGES DURING 1947.

	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	60	Ttl.
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	2	1	3	—	—	3	—	1	—	11
Measles	2	1	4	6	4	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	24
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pulmonary													
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	1	—	8
Non-Pulmonary													
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	4	8	5	9	2	—	9	1	3	—	45
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my 8th Annual Report, which is for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

In the year under review, a fair amount of improvement work was effected, but the problems of overcrowding and slum clearance require urgent attention. As soon as circumstances permit, the abolition of slums and re-conditioning of houses on an extensive scale must be commenced and the good work accomplished prior to the War resumed.

During 1947 72 houses were erected and occupied, of which 52 were Council Houses. The total number of inhabited houses in the district is 4,095 for an estimated population of 15,070, giving an average figure of 3.68 persons per house. It may be thought from the foregoing that there should be no housing or overcrowding problems, but account must be taken of the preponderance of small cottages in the district, together with the larger houses being mainly under-occupied.

At the end of the year on the Housing Register were applications from 333 families living in rooms and 99 families tenants of houses but overcrowded, making a total of 432 new houses required to give each family a separate home and to abate overcrowding. Selection of tenants continued on a 'points' and 'needs' scheme, which mainly appeared to work satisfactorily.

Twenty-five Statutory and 726 Preliminary Notices were served during the year and of this number the only ones outstanding were 21 preliminary, in most of which cases the work was in the hands of a contractor. Inspections and re-visits in connection with the foregoing totalled 2,451, this figure including all visits to Council Houses, Farms and Food Premises, etc.

NOTICES COMPLIED WITH.

Conversion of pail closets into water closets (houses)	26
Conversion of pail closets into water closets (factories)	1
Conversion of tippler closets into water closets ...	3
New closet basins fixed	21
Repairs to defective closets	33
New closet buildings erected to replace dangerous ones	16
Dustbin renewals	231
Defective and choked drains	44
Repairs to roofs and spouting	123
Renewals of chimney stacks and pots	78
Provision of glazed sinks	7
Repairs or renewals to windows	56
Pointing of outside walls to abate dampness	6
Houses pebble-dashed to abate dampness	5
New Sculleries provided	1
Sculleries underdrawn	3
Repairs to floors	13
Repairs or renewals to firegrates	39
Defective plasterwork made good	61
New Doors	9
New Wash-coppers	4
Yards drained and concreted	3
Houses fumigated for vermin	6

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

At the end of 1947 there were 3,737 water closets, 292 pail closets, 31 privies and 69 tippler and other types.

During the year 27 pail and 3 tippler closets were converted to the water carriage system.

REFUSE COLLECTION and DISPOSAL.

Almost a weekly collection of refuse prevailed throughout the district. It is estimated that 4,737 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of by controlled tipping.

Notices were served for the renewal of 231 dustbins all of which were complied with. Every effort is made to ensure that each house has a proper dustbin in sound condition.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Samples of water taken for analyses were all satisfactory, all public supplies are chlorinated.

The 112 houses previously supplied with water from the Strutt Estate private supply and which was plumbo-solvent. were all connected to the Council's mains and this water is no longer used for human consumption.

The Council's mains were extended to cover development at Mount Pleasant Drive, Windmill Rise, Bridge View, Wheeldon Avenue, Alton Road, Bargate Road and Laund Nook.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODSTUFFS.

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of the following articles of food which were unfit for human consumption :—

154 lbs. of codfish, 49 lbs. of herrings, 140 lbs. of megrim, 90 lbs. of kippers, 33 tins of fish, $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of cheese, 62 lbs. of beef, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of butter, 49 lbs. of bacon, 34 lbs. cooking fats, 24 lbs. margarine, 8 lbs. bran, 22 lbs. oats, 17 lbs. oatmeal, 2 barrels of gherkins, 50 tins of beans, 22 peas, 47 milk, 6 soup, 31 corned beef, 19 luncheon meat, 23 steak, 16 jam, 9 lbs. of sugar, 2 lbs. of tea, and the whole of the carcase and offal of one pig.

Sixty visits were made to premises where food is prepared or stored and same were found to be in a cleanly condition.

Twelve visits were made to premises where ice-cream is manufactured and the regulations relating to same are being fully complied with.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Ten farmers in the district are producing accredited milk and one farmer tuberculin tested. A number of other farmers from outside districts are also retailing accredited milk in the area.

A pasteurising plant was completed and licensed during the year. This plant also pasteurises tuberculin tested milk and a number of retailers purchase from this establishment for delivery.

Thirty-four visits were made to farms and dairies and arising from such visits and notices served, 4 cowsheds were completely re-modelled, 2 dairies were repaired and improved, and 8 cowsheds were limewashed. All farms in the district now have a proper dairy and good cowsheds.

KNACKER'S YARDS.

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district to which 7 visits were made. The business appears to be conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one Common Lodging House in the district to which sixteen visits were made. The number for which the premises are registered is 50 persons and children are not admitted for more than one night.

The business appears to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

FACTORIES ACT, 1947.

Three notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in connection with the above Act.

142 inspections were made of factories and arising from such visits and notices of H.M. Inspector of Factories 2 factories were thoroughly cleansed, defective floor drainage made good at another, defects arising from inadequate and unsuitable closets were remedied at 2 factories and separate accommodation for the sexes provided at another.

Visits were made to 49 houses where outwork is carried out and in all cases the premises were satisfactory for such work.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's refuse tip was treated 12 times during the year, whilst the sewage works was treated 5 times. Every effort is made to keep the properties free from rats.

The Council's sewers were test baited and found to be free from infestation.

Sixteen complaints were received from householders and advice and treatment given.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Eighteen houses were fumigated after infectious diseases and the usual enquiries made to prevent the spread of the diseases. Many Library Books were fumigated after they had been in houses in which certain infectious diseases had occurred. Books from houses where there have been cases of scarlet fever or diphtheria are always destroyed as a precaution against the spread of the disease.

No cases of scabies were reported during the year, but six houses were treated for flea or bug infestation.

In conclusion, may I express my gratitude to the Council and various Committees for their support and interest, to the Clerk of the Council and colleagues in other departments for their help and co-operation, and finally, to the members of the cleansing service for the manner in which they have carried out their duties despite being short staffed.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRANCIS COSTELLO,

Sanitary Inspector.

